

Remarks/Arguments

Reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

Claims 27, 29-35 and 53 stand rejected as obvious over Izawa in view of Chitayat and Munehiro. Claim 27 has been amended to obviate this rejection.

As amended, Claim 27 recites, “the movable member having a coil assembly having an inner shape of a rectangle and a reinforcing member having an outer shape of a rectangle on which the coil assembly is fittingly mounted, the reinforcing member extending in a longitudinal direction of the linear motor and being made of a non magnetic and conductive material.” Claim 27 now recites that the reinforcing material is made of a non-magnetic and conductive material, which supports the coil assembly. Since the reinforcing member is conductive, magnetic flux generated by the coils of the coil assembly pass through the reinforcing member. However, since the reinforcing member is placed inside the coils, the magnetic flux from the coils does not reach the reinforcing member. Therefore, an adverse force, having a direction opposite to that of the propelling force, is not generated, improving the performance of the moveable member (armature).

In Izawa, the bobbin 21 is made of a non-magnetic material, such as resin, but is not conductive. In Chitayat, substrate 70 including raised island 72 is made of a ceramic material, but is not conductive. Thus, the structures in Izawa and Chitayat that come closest to corresponding to the claimed reinforcing member cannot achieve the feature of this invention described above. Munehiro, cited for its teaching of magnetic yokes, does not compensate for the deficiencies of Izawa and Chitayat noted above.

Therefore, Claim 27 is patentable over the combination of Izawa, Chitayat and Munehiro.

Claims 29-35 and 53, either directly or indirectly dependent on Claim 27, are patentable for the reasons discussed above with respect to Claim 27.

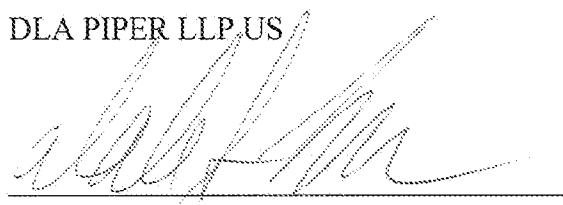
Claim 36 stands rejected as unpatentable over Izawa, Chitayat, Munehiro and Inagaki. Claim 36 is dependent upon Claim 27 and is patentable for the reason discussed above with respect to Claim 27. Specifically, Inagaki, cited for its disclosure of varying gaps between magnetic components of linear motors, fails to compensate for the deficiencies of Izawa, Chitayat, and Munehiro noted above. Therefore, Claim 36 is patentable over the combination of Izawa, Chitayat, Munehiro and Inagaki.

The application has been amended to place the application condition for allowance. All amendments are supported by the specification. An early notice of allowance is earnestly solicited.

Please charge any shortage in the fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-3266.

Respectfully submitted,

DLA PIPER LLP US

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "DALE S. LAZAR", is written over a stylized graphic of several overlapping diagonal lines forming a mountain-like shape. Below the signature is a horizontal line.

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